

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and under 35 U.S.C. § 101; and indicated that claims 1-3 and 5-19 are allowable.

By this Amendment, Applicant proposes to amend claim 2 to correct a minor typographical error and cancel claim 21.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claim 21. However, in order to advance prosecution of this application, Applicant proposes to cancel claim 21, without prejudice or disclaimer of its subject matter. Upon entry of this Amendment, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and under 35 U.S.C. § 101 of claim 21 will therefore be rendered moot.

Only claims 1-3 and 5-19, which the Examiner indicated as being allowable, remain pending upon entry of this amendment. Accordingly, Applicant's proposed amendments do not raise any new issues requiring further consideration or search. Indeed, Applicant's proposed cancellation of claim 21 places this application in condition for allowance.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests prompt and favorable action on the part of the Examiner in the form of a Notice of Allowance. Applicant also respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative in order to expedite the granting of allowance, should any issues come to the Examiner's attention after receipt of this paper.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 15, 2006

By: Reg. No. 31,744

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